Compulsory retirement of corrupt officials

578. SHRI P.N. SIVA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to compulsorily retire officials against whom cases of corruption by CBI are registered under FR 56 (j);

(b) if so, whether Government have identified the revenue officials having doubtful integrity;

(c) if so, the number of cases registered against revenue officials by CBI in each of the last three years togetherwith the details thereof; and

(d) the measures taken by Government to get these cases expedited?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN): (a) to (d) Fundamental Rule (FR) 56(j) confers on the Government the right to retire a Government servant in public interest after he has attained a prescribed age, *i.e.*, 50 / 55 years. The provisions of this Rule are invoked by the Government to weed out, from Government service, employees who have outlived their utility and have become ineffective as well as those whose integrity is doubtful.

However, the provisions of FR 56(j) are not applicable to Government employees against whom cases have been registered by the CBI. The registration of cases by CBI and action under FR 56 (j) have no direct relation. Thirty-six cases have been registered by the CBI in respect of income tax officials during the years 1999, 2000 and 2001. The number of cases registered in respect of Customs and Central Excise officials during the years 1999, 2000, 2001 (upto May), is 29, 19 & 7 respectively. The progress of such cases registered by the CBI is monitored by the Central Vigilance Commission.

Norms for health insurance sector

579. SHRI C.P. THIRUNAVUKKARASU: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the IRDA has stipulated stringent norms for third party administration for health insurance sector;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the number of applications received and clearance given by IRDA after announcing norms for starting business in the health insurance sector;